

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a better picture of the important matters affecting labor, covering the industrial, legislative and judicial aspects of the labor movement. Information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# LABOR WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1070.

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1931

FRANK MORRISON, Secretary

VOL. 21, NO. 31.

## Right to Work Is Labor's Major Demand, Green Says

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 10.—The demand that organized labor put the Right to Work into the American Bill of Rights and condemnation of wage cutting and the inequitable distribution of wealth were the featured items of the speech by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in opening the fifty-first annual convention of the AFL at Vancouver. A tremendous feeling of social unrest is developing everywhere," President Green said.

"Men who are temperate in the use of language are beginning to speak in no uncertain terms. Standards of life and living must be maintained on a high level if our institutions are to prevail. I must warn employers and leaders of industry against the life-destraining, heartless policy of wage cuts.

"In my opinion, the time has arrived when the representatives of labor can take a most advanced position. Those Jefferson wrote into the life of our nation the Bill of Rights,

which guarantees to all the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Nothing means to the man who is out of work."

Attacking the "inequitable distribution of the earnings of industry," Green said that the building up of immense fortunes, Mr. Green called for a division of excess profits in the form of wages.

"The wage standard must be built up," he said. "The earnings of industry are mostly inequitably distributed. Instead of corporations distributing a 40 per cent dividend to stockholders they should divide the profits with the workers who have earned it.

"If they refuse to listen, then we will go to the sovereign power through the ballots and bring about a distribution of these large fortunes back to the people through the power of taxation."

## Work for Idle or Jobless Insurance, A. F. of L. Executive Council Says

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 10.—Unless the owners and managers of industry provide for the jobless unemployment insurance will be inevitable.

This is the contention reached by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its annual report to the convention.

"While it is the opinion of the Executive Council," the report says, "that legislation such as is now in effect in Great Britain and Germany would be unsuited to our economic and political requirements here and unsatisfactory to American workers men and women, we recognize the fact that the owners and managers of industry, through their failure to provide for the working men of the nation who are able and willing to work have contributed much toward the creation of a social problem in favor of the enactment of unemployment insurance legislation."

It is the opinion of the Executive Council that the enactment of such legislation will be largely responsible for the solution of the unemployment problem in the event of a future depression. It is also the opinion of the Executive Council that the enactment of such legislation will be largely responsible for the solution of the unemployment problem in the event of a future depression.

States, the owners and managers of industry have failed to offer either a plan or a remedy for the evil of unemployment.

"No collective action of any kind has been taken and no response has been made to the working people in accord with the rights and equities of the law. The managers of industry have miserably failed."

The ruthless discharge of millions of working men and women without means of support, dependent upon relief as well as by local relief agencies, is in itself an indictment of our unsound economic and industrial structure, and sound and sane because the owners and managers of industry have miserably failed."

They demand work.

"The owners and managers of industry have failed to provide for the working men of the nation who are able and willing to work. They have failed to provide for the working men of the nation who are able and willing to work. They have failed to provide for the working men of the nation who are able and willing to work."

## FIFTY YEARS OF LABOR PROGRESS

By THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

Editor's Note: The following is the Introduction by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to the Convention of the Federation at Vancouver, B. C.

Our report for this year features an account of the Federation's stewardship after 50 years of service.

The purpose for which the Federation was organized was to co-ordinate the policy making of trade unions and to promote the organization of workers in trade unions, in order that those human beings employed in the production process of industry, commerce, and services might be in a position to have opportunities for better living.

The purpose and activities of the Federation affect directly the lives and opportunities of over 2,500,000 wage earners and their dependents and indirectly progress for 25,000,000 of the citizens of our nation.

This large group of citizens even when not identified with the organized labor movement, very largely follows the leadership of the Federation in its problems, and in emergencies looks to us for counsel.

Our record for 50 years shows that we have made progress in our efforts to secure recognition of wage earners' rights and in incorporating into public policy principles leading toward acceptance of workers' right to an opportunity to work.

We are at the formative period of a new age in which associated activity is essential to the welfare of our nation with industry taking place when our primary need was to conquer the resources of our continent, progress claims had a priority accorded by social sanction; in this period we are in a stage of transition from the rights and equities of the producers and to advance co-ordinated claims with priorities to none.

The spirit of co-ordinated activity is co-ordination—progress with the co-operation of all groups instead of progress against or at the expense of one or more groups; co-operation in economics and management instead of competition and disorganization of the market; co-ordinated efforts of all groups instead of specially privileged groups.

In our report on unemployment and the program we outline for dealing with it, we have been guided by basic principles that should underlie balanced public policy.

We have further shown that these same principles underlie international relations.

The method of approaching all these various areas of relationship is the same—voluntary organization to conserve the value of individual initiative and to develop order and control for the benefit of the community and to provide them with the necessary economic and political tools and opportunities.

We believe constructive progress can be made by facing the momentous problems before our nation with understanding of the changes taking place, guided by principles and not by formulas.

The central problem is how to produce goods adequate to supply the needs of all and distribute the income from production equitably among all engaged in its production. The use of the products of the land and the means for its use have become a steadily progressing standard.

## Use National Wealth to End Unemployment, Senator Davis Says

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 10.—The national wealth of the United States should be used to end unemployment.

This declaration was the outstanding feature of the speech which Senator Davis made before the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor.

"The Senator said that the use of the national wealth to end unemployment is the only way to solve the problem of unemployment. He said that the use of the national wealth to end unemployment is the only way to solve the problem of unemployment. He said that the use of the national wealth to end unemployment is the only way to solve the problem of unemployment."

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## Employers Refuse Labor's Plans To Provide Work for Unemployed

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 10.—The owners and managers of industry have refused to consider organized labor's proposals for providing work for the unemployed and have refused to consider labor's proposals for providing work for the unemployed and have refused to consider labor's proposals for providing work for the unemployed.

The application of a more scientific plan of industrial production so that a stable balance may be maintained and production may be increased systematically over longer periods.

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## ABOLISH CHILD LABOR, AFL COUNCIL DEMANDS

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 10.—The abolition of child labor is demanded by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its annual report to the convention.

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## Employers Force Long Hours Despite Large Output and Jobless Army

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## AFL Executive Council Presents Emergency Unemployment Program

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## FIGHT WAGE CUTS: OBTAIN 5-DAY WEEK

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## AFL COUNCIL SUPPORTS VOLSTEAD ACT CHANGE

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## Work-hours should be shortened, Council asserts.

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## Wage cuts are a menace to the unemployed.

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## Labor Papers Strength of Labor Movement, AFL Council Declares

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 10.—Merrill recognition of the great importance of the labor press in the movement for the improvement of the laborer and the valuable assistance rendered by the labor press in the movement for the improvement of the laborer and the valuable assistance rendered by the labor press in the movement for the improvement of the laborer.

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## Abolition of Labor Injunctions

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 10.—The abolition of labor injunctions is demanded by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its annual report to the convention.

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## Benefits Paid by Trade Unions

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 10.—Over thirty-five million dollars were paid in benefits by the standard and national trade unions in the United States and Canada in 1930, according to the annual report of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

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## Government Control of Coal Industry Urged by AFL Council

G. M. BUGNIAZET.....Eighth Vice President  
1269 Fifteenth Street N. W., Washington, D. C.

In this connection, it is significant that the "company union" in the economic planning scheme proposed by Mr. Gerard Swope, president of the General Electric Company, for the electric industry ignored the trade union and set up the company union to represent the workers. The Executive Council describes "company unions" as "company controlled and

## Unions the Tools of Labor's Progress

workers with the highest wage levels in the world and the highest standards of living. We have ahead of us the problem of extending these gains to backward areas while steadily advancing the standards for those in the front ranks of progress.

In 1929, the Executive Council of the Federation issued an appeal

Wage-earners invest their special skills, their creative capacity, their judgment based on work experience, their ability to use materials, tools and time economically; they organize their lives around their specific jobs. They

The Carpenters and Joiners' Union have 125,000 men on the five-day week:

The Bureau has continued its po-

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 16.—The Employment Service of the U. S. Department of Labor, which was organized by free labor, according to the report of the American Federation of Labor, Executive Council to the 1931 convention of the Federation at Vancouver, The Hawes-Cooper law was passed.

The monument will occupy an angular site contributed by the United States Congress in Washington, Massachusetts Avenue between T and Eleventh Streets.

monument will occupy the triangular site contributed by the United States Congress in Washington on Massachusetts Avenue between Tenth and Seventh Streets.

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The sculptor expects to have the memorial completed by the end of the